I.C.P.O. Bulletin

18-26 December 2008

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I.C.P.O. Bulletin (December 18 - 26, 2008)
"Islands, Castles & Portable Operations"
Listing is by calendar date (day/month/year)
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18/12/2008: Hans, DF5UG is working in CW and SSB signing 9M2QQ from Port Dickson, West Malaysia, these days. He works with 100 watts and a 3ele yagi and a TS-50. Hans is listening especially for Europe on 20m around 1400 UTC. Hans is going to celebrate his Christmas in 9M6 (Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia IOTA OC-088, WLOTA LH-0119) and the turn of the year in 9M8 being the guest of 9M8DB located in Miri, Sarawak, East Malaysia (OC-088, LH-0119). QSLs cards for all his calls 9M2QQ, 9M6QQ and 9M8QQ should be sent via bureau to DF5UG. [DX Newsletter]

18/12/2008: Adam K2ARB will be QRV as KC4/K2ARB - CE9/K2ARB - VP8DKF from the ALE (Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions) base camp at Patriot Hills (IOTA AN-016, WABA MN-01, WAP MNB-02, WFF [World Flora Fauna] ANFF-013) and surrounding areas from December 18, 2008 to January 30, 2009 on CW, SSB and PSK31 when workload permits. Read an article by Adam about his operation in his blog at www.k2arb.blogspot.com/ . QSL via home call, direct only. [I1HYW]

19/12/2008: Toshi, T31DX is now going to Kiritimati [Christmas] Island (OC-024), East Kiribati, where he should arrive around December 19-20 and be active as T32YY for 5-7 days. QSL direct to JA8BMK. [425 DX News]

20/12/2008: Ron/WB3AAL, Jim/KA3UNQ, Stan/N2US will be active as homecall/p during the ARLHS Lighthouse Christmas Lights yearly event from the Turkey Point, Maryland, lighthouse (ARLHS USA-857). QRV all bands and modes. QSL to the station worked with SASE or via the Bureau. (N2US also LOTW). [ARLHS]

20/12/2008: There will be a series of Lighthouse activations by TCSWAT during the following five months from the historical lighthouses around Istanbul / Republic of Turkiye. In collaboration with the Directorate General of Coastal Safety, TCSWAT is organising the "Istanbul Lighthouses On The Air" activity, which will take place from Karaburun (TUR 036), Sile (TUR 046), Anadolu (TUR 014), Ahirkapi (TUR 056), Rumeli/Turkeli (TUR 053), and Fenerbahce (TUR 021). Lighthouses as of last two weekends of December 2008. The dates, locations and call signs are as follows: 1) 20-21 & 27-28 December 2008 Karaburun Lighthouse TUR 036 / TC1KLH; 2) 17-18 January 2009 Sile Lighthouse TUR 046 / TC2SLH; 3) 24-25 January 2009 Anadolu Lighthouse TUR 014 / TC2ALH; 4) 21-22 February 2009 Ahirkap? Burnu Lighthouse TUR 056 / TC1ALH; 5) 21-22 March 2009 Rumeli/Turkeli Lighthouse TUR 053 / TC1RLH; 6) 4-5 April 2009 Fenerbah?e Lighthouse TUR 021 / TC2FLH. Stations contacting four or more of the lighthouses will recieve "Istanbul Lighthouses On The Air Award". Details will be later announced on the website: ta0u.com/ and tcswat.tripod.com/ More lighthouses will be activated in the future by TCSWAT. The lighthouse TCSWAT team will be: Urcun/TA0U, Leonardo/TA1FR, Mert/TA1ST, Tevfik/TA1HZ, Erhan/TA2DJ, Bekir/TA2RX, Mehmet/TB1J and Onur/TB2MYE. Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information...73! de TCSWAT / TA0U. [Pete's-DX-Newsdesk]

20/12/2008: Peter, NO2R will be active again as XU7ACY from Sihanoukville [aka Kampong Som], Cambodia, starting around 20 December for about 6 weeks. He will concentrate on 40, 80 and 160 meters. He also hopes to join up with Wim, XU7TZG (XU7KOH) for an activity from Koh Russei (Bamboo Island, AS-133). QSL XU7ACY via W2EN and QSL XU7KOH via ON7PP. [425 DX News]

22/12/2008: Frank, I2DMI will be visiting Bhutan and Nepal between late December and early January. He will operate RTTY only as A52RY from Thimphu, Bhutan, December 22-31st, probably between 01-03 UTC and 12-19 UTC on a daily basis. Suggested frequencies are 3582, 7040, 10142,

14082, 18102, 21082, 24922 and 28082 kHz. He will then be in Nepal until 5 January. He plans to operate 9N7DMI or 9N7RY (call sign to be confirmed upon arrival) on the same frequencies and at the same times. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. The logs will be uploaded to LoTW. [425 DX News]

24/12/2008: Nao, NY6X plans to be active as KP2/NY6X from the KP2M Radio Reef QTH on St. Croix Island (USi VI-002S, WLOTA LH-2477, WW Loc. FK77PR), US Virgin Islands (NA-106), from December 3-9th. There is a strong possibility that he will enter the Stew Perry Topband Challenge (December 27-28th). QSL via home call. [Radio Reef Web]

26/12/2008: Look for Mike, CT1IUA to be active December 26-31st as homecall/p from the Serra da Malcata Natural Reserve (DPRN reference FF-23 for the Diploma of Natural Parks and Reserves, WFF reference CTFF-023). QSL via home call, direct or by the bureau. [DPRN]

26/12/2008: Operators Toze/CT1GFK and Mike/CT1IUA will be QRV as CT7FFE from the Natural Park da Serra da Estrela (DPRN FF-08, WWF CTFF-008), December 26-27th. QSL via CT1IUA, direct or bureau. All information about DPRN can be find at: dprn.no.sapo.pt/dprn_eng.htm [CT1GFK]

26/12/2008: Jouni/OH4KZM and Jukka/OH4MFA will be active as OH4JT/1 from Kustavi Island (EU-096), December 26-30th, including a Multi-Op entry in the Stew-Perry Topband Challenge. QRV 160-10m, mainly CW. QSL via OH4MFA, direct or bureau. Further information can be found at: personal.inet.fi/surf/oh4mfa/oh4jt-1.htm [rsgbiota.org]

26/12/2008: An official amateur call sign OP0LE is assigned to Princess Elizabeth base (IOTA AN-016, 71?57'S and 23?20'E). Paul, ON3PC will be operating from the base between December 26, 2008 and February 15, 2009. He will be working at the base as a plumber boiler-mechanic and he will be in charge of the communications in supplement. He never made any qso on amateur radio frequencies and he should appear mostly at the begining on the Antarctic DX Net that is managed on 14MHz and 7MHz. After 40 years of silence, Belgium is back on air from Antarctica. [F5PFP]

26/12/2008: Larry, WO0Z will be active holiday-style as PJ4/WO0Z from the island of Bonaire (SA-006, WLOTA LH-1279) between December 26, 2008 and January 4, 2009. He will focus on 30 and 17 meters, using all modes. QSL via WO0Z (whiskey oscar zero zulu). [NG3K]

26/12/2008: Phil, F4EGS will be active from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, using the call sign TU8/F4EYS from December 26, 2008 to February 28, 2009. QRV on all bands, with focus on 160 and 80 meters, using CW and RTTY. QSL via F4EGS, direct or bureau. [NG3K]

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LOOKING AHEAD -

01/01/2009: Special Canadian prefixes will be used from January 1st to February 28th to commemorate Galileo's 400th year of using an optical instrument to study our universe and the discoveries he made during that period. This event is know as the International Year of Astronomy. Further information on this ham radio related initiative can be found at: www.hamiya2009.info . The use of a Special Event Prefix call sign has been approved by Industry Canada and can be used by all Canadian Amateurs. It commemorates Galileo's first use of an optical telescope and the subsequent discoveries he made in his lifetime. Starting January 1st until February 28th 2009 all Canadian amateur radio operators may use the special prefix as follows: VE changes to CG; VA changes to CF; VO changes to CH; and VY changes to CI. For example - VE7DAO = CG7DAO, VA3DAO = CF3DAO. It will certainly attract hams from around the world to call and find out what the new callsign is and will promote the International Year of Astronomy. [VE7DAO]

01/01/2009: Darin, VE3OIJ will use the special event call sign CG3OIJ from January 1 until February 28th to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy. Look for him to be active on 80m to 70cm (WW Loc. FN25EJ). QSL via VE3OIJ, direct (P. Darin Cowan, 674 Southmore Dr. W, Ottawa, ON K1V 7A1, Canada) via the bureau or eQSL. Further information at www.squidzone.ca/ve3oij [VE3OIJ]

01/01/2009: Paul, VE9NC will be activating the special event call sign CG9NC between January 1st through February 28th to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy from Hampton, New Brunswick. He will be active mainly on 20 meters on the Digital modes throughout this period. QSL via VE9NC. [RAC]

05/01/2009: Joe, W4ONC will be active as homecall/p from the Currituck lighthouse (ARLHS USA-212, Admiralty J2384), Outer Banks, North Carolina on January 5th and 6th. QRV 40 and 20 meter SSB. QSL via home call. [ARLHS]

20/01/2009: Nobi, JA1JCF will be active as homecall/p from the Tsumeki [Tumeki] Saki Lighthouse (ARLHS JAP-690, JP-2441, Admiralty F 6296), Shizuoka prefecture, Honshu Island (AS-007, JIIA AS-007-001, WLOTA LH-2376) on January 20th and 21st. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [ARLHS]

23/01/2009: Ray, WQ7R will be active as HQ9R from Roatan Island (NA-057, WLOTA LH-1671), Honduras, during the CQWW 160-Meter CW Contest (January 23-25th) as a Single-Op/High-Power entry. QSL via K5WW. [NG3K]

03/02/2009: Sigi, DL7DF and his XYL Sabine will be on holiday in Zanzibar (AF-032, also count for WLOTA LH-1080) from February 3-13th. QRV as 5H1DF on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV as often as possible. Equipment consists of a transceiver, a linear TY900, a 18m Lowband Vertical, a Vertical R7 as well as a laptop computer. The QSL-Route is via DL7DF either direct (Sigi Presch, Wilhelmsmuehlenweg 123, D-12621 Berlin, Germany) or via the German DARC QSL bureau to DL7DF. Further information at: www.dl7df.com/5h/index.html [NG3K & DL7DF]

08/06/2009: DX PLUS is a Greek ham team and every year they visit a rocky islet, for about 10 days. Look for the special call SX5LA to be active from Levitha islet (GIOTA DKS-050, MIA MGD-019, WLOTA LH-0846), Dodecanese (EU-001), from June 8-14th. QSL via SV1GRM. Further details will be available closer to the activation date. [SV1GRM]

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SPECIAL EVENTS -

20/12/2008: II2IGTO will be active from the submarine "Toti" at the National Museum of Science and Technology in Milan on December 20th and 21st for the International Naval Contest. QSL via IQ2MI, direct or bureau. [425 DX News]

20/12/2008: Special event station 8J6HAM will be aired December 20, 2008 until March 8, 2009 for the 8th Nishinihon (or West Japan) Ham Fair. QSL HF contacts via the JARL bureau; QSL satellite contacts via JA6PL, direct or bureau. [JJ1WTL/AC6IM]

21/12/2008: This year and for the 5th time, the French Crew composed of Sebastien Loeb and Daniel Elena won the World Rally Championship. To celebrate the event a Ham team from the French Saone et loire Department/71, will be airing the special call sign TM5WRC from December 21, 2008 to January 3, 2009. QRV HF and VHF included AO51 satellite, using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, SSTV and FM. Operators mentioned are Jean Pierre/F0EWK, Denis/F1PUX, Gerard/F1RUK, Roger/F4ELU, Didier/F5NZO, Pascal/F5RZJ, Jean/F6EZF and Francois/F8DVD. QSL via F4ELU, direct (Envelope SA + 1 IRC or 2$ US) or via bureau. More information on the special event web page at: f4elu.free.fr/tm5wrc/index.html [F5NZO]

21/12/2008: Andre, HB9HLM will visit Morocco from December 21, 2008 to January 31, 2009 and will be QRV as CN89NY from the CN2DX Beach House, Dar Bouazza, Morocco. This special call sign is allocated specifically for the holiday season, (8 for 2008 and 9 for 2009, NY for New Year). He will be QRV from the Beach House with CN8PA and CN2CV allies HB9CVC and will operate 2 stations at the same time: IC7000 and TS680 with PA AL811hcxe, Windom antenna 160 to 10m extension with 30 and headed 15m East-West G5RV antenna then 40 to 10m run north-south. QSL via EA7FTR. Further information can be found under CN89NY on QRZ.com. [F5NQL]

22/12/2008: Special event station GB5ONG will be active between 22 December and 4 January to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Nos Galan Races held on New Year's Eve each year at Mountain Ash near Aberdare, South Wales. They will be active on 160, 80, 40 and 20m SSB and

possibly PSK31, RTTY and CW. There will also be a talk in frequency of 145.400MHz available for any visitors. Operating times/schedules will be available nearer the date on www.qrz.com. QSL via MW6VHF, direct or bureau. Further details available at www.nosgalan.co.uk/ [GB2RS]

24/12/2008: Planned transmissions are also scheduled for Wednesday 24th December 2008 at 08.00UTC and 08.15 UTC. The frequency is 17.2 kHz CW. Running up an tuning of the transmitter begins about 07.30 UTC. More info at: www.alexander.n.se/ [UBA HF News]

26/12/2008: Terry, GM3WUX will be active as GB2HLB between December 26th and January 22nd. Activity is to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Louis Braille. Each QSO will receive a special QSL card depicting Braille and raising awareness of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). A fund raising page for RNIB can be found at: www.justgiving.com/louisbraille [OPDX Bulletin]

26/12/2008: Members of the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (www.obarc.org/) will be operating as N2OB/150 (or N2OB/LH) starting at 0000 UTC December 27, 2008 through 2359 UTC January 4, 2009. Operation will be on all bands and modes available. This will be to celebrate the relighting and the 150th anniversary of the Barnegat lighthouse (nicknamed "Old Barney"). Yes, "Old Barney" will officially be relit on January 1, 2009, which is the 150th anniversary of it's original lighting (January 1, 1859). The lighthouse was officially shut down in 1944 and became a State Park in 1957. Since that time, only a 250 watt light was lit for aesthetics only. On January 1st, a new light with a new fresnel lens will be lighted and Old Barney will once again be an official (private) navigational aid. See www.southjersey.com/articles/?articleid=19695 for info on the relighting. N2OB/150 stations will be operating from various locations around "Ocean County". Some operations from the lighthouse property may be possible and will use N2OB/LH which will count for working the lighthouse and IOTA NA-111. A nice colour photo QSL is being planned showing the relighting of the lighthouse. QSL via N2OB (SASE requested) or via bureau is ok. [N2OO]

U.S.A. Special event station information can be found at: www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html
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LIGHTHOUSE CALENDAR -

There will be a series of Lighthouse activations by TCSWAT during the following five months from the historical lighthouses around Istanbul / Republic of Turkiye. In collaboration with the Directorate General of Coastal Safety, TCSWAT is organising the "Istanbul Lighthouses On The Air" activity, which will take place from Karaburun (TUR 036), Sile (TUR 046), Anadolu (TUR 014), Ahirkapi (TUR 056), Rumeli/Turkeli (TUR 053), and Fenerbahce (TUR 021). Lighthouses as of last two weekends of December 2008.
The dates, locations and callsigns are as follows: 1) 20-21 & 27-28 December 2008 Karaburun Lighthouse TUR 036 / TC1KLH; 2) 17-18 January 2009 Sile Lighthouse TUR 046 / TC2SLH; 3) 24-25 January 2009 Anadolu Lighthouse TUR 014 / TC2ALH; 4) 21-22 February 2009 Ahirkap? Burnu Lighthouse TUR 056 / TC1ALH; 5) 21-22 March 2009 Rumeli/Turkeli Lighthouse TUR 053 / TC1RLH; 6) 4-5 April 2009 Fenerbah?e Lighthouse TUR 021 / TC2FLH.
Stations contacting four or more of the lighthouses will recieve "Istanbul Lighthouses On The Air Award". Details will be later announced on the website: ta0u.com/ and tcswat.tripod.com/
More lighthouses will be activated in the future by TCSWAT. The lighthouse TCSWAT team will be: Urcun/TA0U, Leonardo/TA1FR, Mert/TA1ST, Tevfik/TA1HZ, Erhan/TA2DJ, Bekir/TA2RX, Mehmet/TB1J and Onur/TB2MYE.
Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information...73! de TCSWAT / TA0U.
[Pete's-DX-Newsdesk]

20/12 KA3UNQ/P: Turkey Point, MD WLOL:USA-857 QSL HC (d/b)
20/12 N2US/3: Turkey Point, MD WLOL:USA-857 QSL HC (d/b)
20/12-21/12 TC1KLH: Karaburun WLOL:TUR-036 QSL TA1HZ (d)
20/12 WB3AAL/P: Turkey Point, MD WLOL:USA-857 QSL HC (d/b)
24/12-29/12 9M6QQ: Borneo Island (Sabah) WLOTA:0119 QSL DF5UG (b)
24/12-31/12 KP2/NY6X St. Croix Island WLOTA:2477 QSL HC (d/b)
26/12-4/1/09 PJ4/WO0Z: Bonaire Island WLOTA:1279 QSL WO0Z (d/b)

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US COUNTIES - USA-CA

N9ID/M - December 18-22 - SSB Only:
Mike, N9ID/M will be on a trip to Texas to see his daughter get her masters degree, and then return. Route starts in St. Joseph county, Indiana, goes south on US-31 to Indianapolis, I-70 to Effingham, IL, I-57/I-55 to West Memphis, AR, I-40/ I-30 to Texarkana, then US-59 South to the Huntsville, TX area. Return trip similar (December 21 & 22), but with passengers, so his operating time may be limited. Time is very limited, so pobably no side trips. QSL via home call. [County Hunter Web]

K0ERE/M - December 20-21 - SSB Only:
Bill, K0ERE/M will be leaving Sedgwick Co, KS heading to Phoenix, AZ (2 day trip) First day Sedgwick, KS to Albuquerque, NM (Hwy 54 SW to Hwy 40 then West) till they stop... 2nd day Hwy 40 West to Hwy 17 South to Phoenix. He will try to run 20 & 40 in each county, this trip will be on the fly as they need to be in Phoenix on Sunday. Sorry I will not have time for any side trips. Return trip is 12/27 to 12/28 Route will be reverse of going out, but might change depending on mood and weather. QSL via home call. [County Hunter Web]

AA9JJ/M & N9QPQ/M - December 24-26 - SSB Only:
Frank, AA9JJ/M and XYL N9QPQ/M plan to activate the following counties: December 24 - AZ: Yavapai, Mohave and NV: Clark. December 26 - AZ: Mohave, LaPaz, Yuma and Maricopa. 20 meter SSB only. QSL via home calls. [County Hunter Web]
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SIX METERS & UP -

VHF DXpedition to NAMIBIA (JG73NI) January 2009 -
A major VHF DXpedition to Namibia in January 2009 that will include operation on a number of VHF bands and modes is in the final planning stages. The team will be led by HB9CRQ, one of Europes top EME operators and will include moonbounce operation on 50, 144, 432 and 1296 MHz. Dates of operation will be from moonrise on 7th to moonset on 16th January 2009. QTH will be in Luderitz Namibia, grid locator JG73NI. For 50 MHz they will be using 1 x 6M7JHV and Acom 1000 which puts out 1KW. They have applied for a special call for their DXpedition. As soon as they get it confirmed they will announce it. All info and updates:
www.mmmonvhf.de/latest.php?id=2027 and hb9q.ch/joomla/index.php [MMMonVHF]

24/12-31/12 KP2/NY6X: St. Croix NA-106 6M Grid:FK77PR 1kW KLM6M QSL HC

GOT6??? - Six Meter Information by Andy 'NEON' Sargent N8OFS at:
http://noars.net/got6/GOT6.txt (Updated December 15, 2008)
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QSL INFO -

A5100A Bhutan Expedition log search can be found at:
http://www.tuduri.net/f5lmj/A5/a5100a/a5-08-fr.htm

The "Radio Klub Trebinje" celebrated its 60th anniversary these days by activating the special call E760DPR as printed in the bandspots. QSL cards should be sent (also via bureau) to E73DPR wich is the regular call of the clubstation. [DX Newsletter]

QSLs received Bureau - 6K2AVL, 9M4SDX, 9Y4W (DL4MDO), CT3/DF7ZS [AF-014], CT3/HA5X, HB0/PA6TUE, IS0/DL3UT [EU-024] and OZ/DL1ANT/p [EU-088].

QSLs received Direct - 3V8BB (via YT1AD), 5H3VB (via UA4WHX), 7Q7VB (via UA4WHX), 9J2VB (via UA4WHX), 9L1X (via I2YSB), 9M6XRO/p (via M0URX), A25/DL7DF (via DL7DF), A35ZS (via JA2ZS), BT1OJ (via BA4EG), BU2AI (via QRZ.com), CE0Y/JJ2NYT (via JJ2NYT), D20VB (via UA4WHX), E73M (via K2PF), EI3O (via QRZ.com), ER4DX (via ER1DA), FM5CD (via F5VU), GJ3YHU (via QRZ.com), HC5WW/HC8 (via JA6VU), HQ9R (via K5WW), J20VB (via UA4WHX), J88DR (via G3TBK), OJ0B (via

OH2BH), P29NI (via G3KHZ), PZ5Z (via OM2FY), S79UH (via JA0UH), T05DX (via AA4NN), TY5ZR (via IK2IQD), UN7/JH4RHF (via OE1ZKC), V26B (via KA2AEV), V51VV (via UA4WHX), VP2ETN (via JN1NDY), VQ9LA (via QRZ.com), XU7MDY (via QRZ.com), YJ0AVE (via JF1OCQ), YL2KO (via QRZ.com), Z2/UA4WHX (via UA4WHX), ZK1EHH (via K8VIR), ZL7/DL2AH (via DL2AH), ZP6/N3BNA (via KA2AEV) and ZS6CCY (via K3IRV).

QSLs received LoTW - 3X5A, 4O3T, AD4ES, CT3NT, CW7T, CX7TT, D4C, H44MY, HC8N, HQ3J, HQ9R, IK0HBN, JA6WFM/HI8, JA6WFM/HR3, JH7AFR, K1TO, K6Z, K7WP, KK9V, LX/DF3VM, N2IC, N4NM, N5OT, N6DE, N7AP, NI6T, NU1AW/0, OX5AA, P40W, PJ2T, PJ4/YL2GQT, SQ8BGJ, TI5/W7YAQ, TO8S, VE3MM, VE7UF, VK9DWX, VP6DX, W1UJ, W6OAT, W6YI, XE2S, XE83IARU and ZF2AM.

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SILENT KEYS -

The following amateur radio operators have recently been reported silent key:

- Anatoly Abramov Alekseevich, UA9SU, in May, 2008 at the age of 101.
- Victor Leonidovich, R9WU, December 15, 2008 at the age of 85.
- Vladimir Serdjuka's, UR7ISG, December 12, 2008.
- Alexander Pahomova, UA3GEV, December 11, 2008 at the age of 50.
- Marcus David Leuchter, AA5XM, December 5, 2008 at the age of 99.
- Richard "Rick" F Ray, KB1IGN, December 6, 2008.
- Russel McDonald, N5SCQ, December 14, 2008.
- Fernand Plante, VE2FVD, December 4, 2008 at the age of 88.

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BITS & PIECES -

ARES-Alert Reflector
"The Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Services Organization has created an ARES-Alert system for Radio Amateurs who are part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service or other Canadian Emcomm unit.

"The email-based system is provided as a means to alert Radio Amateurs of emergencies or disasters, or threat of same, where Amateur Emcomm services are or may be required. It will also serve to advise stations of the need to avoid or monitor frequencies that are being used in an emergency event anywhere in the world.

"Any Canadian Radio Amateur may register to be added to the email list. Full name, call sign and QTH are required.

"This is not a "chat" reflector and only national officials of the RAC Field Services Organization will have authority to initiate messages.

"To be added to the list, or for further information, please see:
groups.yahoo.com/group/ARES-Alert/ ." [VE3BDB]

SB SPACE ARL ARLS009
ARLS009 ARISS Finalizes Plans for Silver Anniversary of Amateur Radio from Space

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz. After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.

"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including

CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week -- Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater or digital - will also be eligible to receive a certificate.

To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way (receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 x 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage."

If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15." Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!" [W1AW]

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SB QST ARL ARLB022

ARLB022 New Section Manager Appointed in Arkansas

J.M. Rowe, N5XFW, of Hot Springs, has been appointed as the new ARRL Arkansas Section Manager with a term to begin on December 22, 2008. Rowe is taking over the Section Manager reins from David Norris, K5UZ, who was elected Vice Director of the ARRL Delta Division in November. Norris assumes his office on January 1, 2009.

When Norris announced that he was stepping down from the Section Manager post he has held since April 2005, he recommended Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator Rowe for the position. Rowe was already scheduled to become Arkansas Section Manager on April 1, 2009, since he was the only nominee for the next term of office when the petition deadline passed on December 5. According to the Rules and Regulations of the Field Organization, when a vacancy in the office of Section Manager occurs between elections, the position is filled by appointment by the Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager, in consultation with the Director. MVP Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, consulted with outgoing Delta Division Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and with Mickey Cox, K5MC, the incoming Delta Division Director. Cox, like Norris, will begin his term January 1, 2009.

Rowe has been Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator for nearly four years. He was first appointed Emergency Coordinator in 2000 and was promoted to District Emergency Coordinator in 2001, a position he continues to hold. Rowe also served as an Assistant Section Manager from 2002-2005. Rowe's term of office as Section Manager continues through March 31, 2011. [W1AW]

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BEST WISHES TO ALL DURING THIS FESTIVE SEASON!!!
73 and Good DX!
Dave Raycroft, VA3RJ
Home of ICPO: http://webhome.idirect.com/~va3rj/
Contest Calendar - DX Calendar - Lighthouse Activations
Join ICPO e-Group: http://webhome.idirect.com/~va3rj/icpo_mail.html
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Canadian Checkpoint For:
All Croatian Islands Award - ACIA
All Croatian Islands Award Group - ACIAG
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